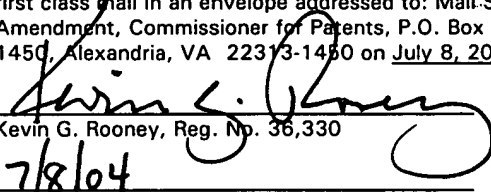




IFW

PATENT

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 8, 2004

  
Kevin G. Rooney, Reg. No. 36,330

7/8/04  
Date

Applicants: Lawrence M. Lubbers et al.  
Serial No.: 10/816,725  
Filed: April 2, 2004  
Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: Unknown  
Confirmation No.: 1018  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHODS FOR TENDON OR LIGAMENT REPAIR  
Atty Docket No.: TTL-04US

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

July 8, 2004

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of candor and good faith imposed by 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and means of complying therewith according to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are

called to the attention of the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified patent application.

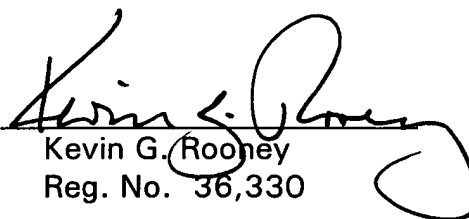
Subject to the Office's waiver of providing copies of U.S. patents and published applications for applications filed after June 30, 2003, only "Foreign Patents or Published Foreign Patent Applications" and "Other Documents" are provided, since this application was filed on April 2, 2004, and therefore, subsequent to June 30, 2003.

The Examiner is urged to consider all of the cited documents and to make an independent evaluation of the teachings and materiality of each.

Applicants believe that this communication is being mailed before a first action on the merits and, therefore, no fee is due. If this is not the case, the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account 23-3000 for any required fees.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

BY   
Kevin G. Rooney  
Reg. No. 36,330

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SUBSTITUTE FORM PTO-1449 (MODIFIED)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY. DOCKET NO. TTL-04US		SERIAL NO. 10/816,725	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Lawrence M. Lubbers et al.			
(37 CFR 1.98(b))				FILING DATE April 2, 2004		GROUP 3731	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS													
EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER							ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A.A	R	e	3	6	2	8	9	8/1999	Le et al.	606	232	
	A.B	2	0	7	5	5	0	8	3/1937	Davidson			
	A.C	2	4	2	1	1	9	3	5/1947	Gardner	128	335	
	A.D	2	4	7	2	0	0	9	5/1949	Gardner	128	335	
	A.E	2	4	8	9	8	7	0	11/1949	Dzus	606	73	
	A.F	2	7	6	0	4	8	8	8/1956	Pierce			
	A.G	3	1	2	3	0	7	7	3/1964	Alcamo	606	228	
	A.H	3	4	8	9	1	4	3	1/1970	Halloran			
	A.I	3	6	6	4	3	4	5	5/1972	Dabbs			
	A.J	3	7	1	6	0	5	8	2/1973	Tanner, Jr.	128	337	
	A.K	4	4	3	0	9	9	8	2/1984	Harvey et al.	128	335	

FOREIGN PATENTS OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATIONS							
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION (YES/NO)	
	A.L	3227984 A1	2/1984	DE			
	A.M	19840881	3/2000	DE			
	A.N	1810800	6/1970	DT			
	A.O	0535802	4/1993	EP			
	A.P	0092334	10/1983	EP			
	A.Q	0478949 A1	4/1992	EP			

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)	
A.R	L. Gordon et al., <u>Flexor Tendon Repair Using a Stainless Steel Internal Anchor</u> , Article, The Journal of Hand Surgery, Vol. 23B N. 1, February 1998
A.S	L. Gordon et al., <u>Flexor Tendon Repair Using a Stainless Steel External Splint</u> , Article, Journal of Hand Surgery, Vol. 24B, No. 6, December 1999
A.T	Dietmar H. Wittmann, <u>Prosthesis for Abdominal Surgery</u> , U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0029063A1, Published on March 7, 2002

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER				ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE			
	B.A	4	5	4	9	5	4	5	10/1985	Levy	606	223	
	B.B	4	5	8	5	4	5	8	4/1986	Kurland	623	13.17	
	B.C	4	5	9	0	9	2	8	5/1986	Hunt et al.			
	B.D	4	5	9	2	3	4	6	6/1986	Jurgutis	128	92	
	B.E	4	6	3	7	3	8	0	1/1987	Orejola	128	334	
	B.F	4	6	4	3	1	7	8	2/1987	Nastari et al.			
	B.G	4	7	2	3	5	4	8	2/1988	Lalonde	128	335	
	B.H	4	7	5	0	4	9	2	6/1988	Jacobs	606	230	
	B.I	4	7	9	6	6	1	2	1/1989	Reese			
	B.J	4	8	3	2	0	2	6	5/1989	Jones			
	B.K	4	8	7	0	9	5	7	10/1989	Goble et al.	128	92	
FOREIGN PATENTS OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATIONS													
		DOCUMENT NUMBER				PUBLICATION DATE		COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE		CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION (YES/NO)	
	B.L	2164562				3/1986		GB					
	B.M	WO 97-07744				3/1997		PCT					
	B.N	WO 00/49983				8/2000		PCT					
	B.O												
	B.P												
	B.Q												
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)													
	B.R	Daniel Jacobs, <u>Multi-Point Tension Distribution System Device and Method of Tissue Approximation Using that Device to Improve Wound Healing</u> , U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/O173807A1, Published on 11/21/02											
	B.S												
	B.T												
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	C.A	4	8	7	3	9	7	6	10/1989	Schreiber	128	334	
	C.B	4	9	0	1	7	2	1	2/1990	Hakki	606	103	
	C.C	4	9	4	6	4	6	2	8/1990	Watanabe			
	C.D	4	9	5	5	9	1	0	9/1990	Bolesky	623	13.13	
	C.E	4	9	7	8	3	4	7	12/1990	Hizarov			
	C.F	4	9	7	9	9	5	6	12/1990	Silvestrini	623	13	
	C.G	4	9	8	8	3	5	1	1/1991	Paulos et al.	606	72	
	C.H	5	0	0	6	0	2	3	4/1991	Kaplan	411	17	
	C.I	5	0	4	1	1	2	9	8/1991	Hayhurst et al.	606	232	
	C.J	5	0	5	3	0	4	7	10/1991	Yoon	606	223	
	C.K	5	0	6	1	2	8	3	10/1991	Silvestrini	623	13	
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	D.A	5	0	8	4	0	5	0	1/1992	Draenert	606	77		
	D.B	5	2	5	8	0	1	5	11/1993	Li et al.				
	D.C	5	2	6	9	2	9	0	12/1993	Barrett et al.	128	4		
	D.D	5	2	6	9	8	0	9	12/1993	Hayhurst et al.				
	D.E	5	3	0	6	2	9	0	4/1994	Martins et al.				
	D.F	5	3	0	9	9	2	7	5/1994	Welch	128	898		
	D.G	5	3	4	2	3	7	6	8/1994	Ruff				
	D.H	5	3	5	4	3	0	5	10/1994	Lewis et al.	606	152		
	D.I	5	3	8	0	3	3	4	1/1995	Torrie et al.	606	104		
	D.J	5	3	8	3	8	9	7	1/1995	Wholey	606	213		
	D.K	5	3	9	5	3	7	4	3/1995	Miller et al.				

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	D.L						
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	D.Q						

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	E.A	5	4	1	1	5	2	3		5/1995	Goble	606	232	
	E.B	5	4	1	7	6	9	9		5/1995	Klein et al.	606	139	
	E.C	5	4	2	5	7	4	7		6/1995	Brotz	606	228	
	E.D	5	4	2	6	8	4	3		6/1995	Bartky	29	516	
	E.E	5	4	3	3	6	0	7		7/1995	Schmid et al.	433	173	
	E.F	5	4	6	4	4	2	4		11/1995	O'Donnell, Jr.	606	228	
	E.G	5	4	7	2	4	5	2		12/1995	Trott	606	232	
	E.H	5	4	8	0	4	0	3		1/1996	Lee et al.	606	72	
	E.I	5	4	8	6	1	9	7		1/1996	Le et al.	606	232	
	E.J	5	5	0	0	0	0	0		3/1996	Feagin et al.			
	E.K	5	5	0	5	7	3	5		4/1996	Li	606	72	

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	E.L						
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EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER							ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	F.A	5	5	0	7	7	7	5	4/1996	Ger et al.	606	216	
	F.B	5	5	2	0	6	9	1	5/1996	Branch			
	F.C	5	5	2	0	7	0	0	5/1996	Beyar et al.	606	139	
	F.D	5	5	2	7	3	4	2	6/1996	Pietrzak et al.	606	232	
	F.E	5	5	3	1	7	9	0	7/1996	Frechet et al.	623	15	
	F.F	5	5	3	1	2	3	2	7/1996	Hill	128	898	
	F.G	5	5	3	1	7	6	1	7/1996	Yoon	606	223	
	F.H	5	5	5	6	4	2	8	9/1996	Shah	623	13	
	F.I	5	5	6	2	6	8	9	10/1996	Green et al.	606	151	
	F.J	5	5	8	2	6	1	6	12/1996	Bolduc et al.	606	143	
	F.K	5	5	8	4	8	5	9	12/1996	Brotz	606	228	
FOREIGN PATENTS OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATIONS													
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		PATENT NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	PATENTEE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	G.A	5 5 9 3 4 2 5	1/1997	Bonutti et al.	606	232	
	G.B	5 6 0 1 5 5 7	2/1997	Hayhurst	606	72	
	G.C	5 6 4 3 2 8 9	7/1997	Sauer et al.	606	139	
	G.D	5 6 4 3 3 2 0	7/1997	Lower et al.	606	232	
	G.E	5 6 6 2 7 1 4	9/1997	Charvin et al.	623	15	
	G.F	5 6 6 9 9 1 7	9/1997	Sauer et al.	606	139	
	G.G	5 6 8 1 3 5 2	10/1997	Clancy, III et al.	606	232	
	G.H	5 6 9 0 6 3 2	11/1997	Schwartz et al.	606	73	
	G.I	5 7 0 7 3 9 4	1/1998	Miller et al.	606	232	
	G.J	5 7 0 7 3 9 5	1/1998	Li	606	232	
	G.K	5 7 2 0 7 6 5	2/1998	Thal			

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	H.A	5	7	2	3	0	0	8	3/1998	Gordon	623	13	
	H.B	5	7	2	3	0	0	9	3/1998	Frechet et al.	623	15	
	H.C	5	7	2	8	1	3	5	3/1988	Bregan et al.	606	228	
	H.D	5	7	2	8	1	3	6	3/1998	Thal	606	232	
	H.E	5	7	5	5	0	6	5	5/1998	Sorkin	52	223.13	
	H.F	5	7	7	2	6	6	8	6/1998	Summers et al.	623	1.11	
	H.G	5	7	8	2	8	4	4	7/1998	Yoon et al.	606	139	
	H.H	5	7	9	7	9	1	3	8/1998	Dambreville et al.	606	72	
	H.I	5	8	0	0	5	4	4	9/1998	Demopoulos et al.	623	13	
	H.J	5	8	1	0	8	5	1	9/1998	Yoon	606	148	
	H.K	5	8	2	4	0	0	8	10/1998	Bolduc et al.	606	43	

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	I.A	5	8	9	1	1	6	8	4/1999	Thal	606	232	
	I.B	5	8	9	7	5	9	1	4/1999	Kobayashi	623	13.11	
	I.C	5	9	1	6	2	2	4	6/1999	Esplin	606	151	
	I.D	5	9	5	1	5	9	0	9/1999	Goldfarb	606	232	
	I.E	5	9	5	4	7	4	7	9/1999	Clark	606	216	
	I.F	5	9	5	7	9	5	3	9/1999	DiPolo et al.	606	232	
	I.G	5	9	6	4	7	7	2	10/1999	Bolduc et al.	606	142	
	I.H	5	9	7	2	0	0	1	10/1999	Yoon	606	139	
	I.I	5	9	8	0	5	5	7	11/1999	Iserin et al.	606	220	
	I.J	6	0	7	4	4	0	9	6/2000	Goldfarb	606	232	
	I.K	6	0	8	3	2	4	4	7/2000	Lubbers et al.	606	232	
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	J.A	6	1	0	2	9	4	7	8/2000	Gordon	623	13.11	
	J.B	6	1	0	6	5	5	6	8/2000	Demopoulos et al.	623	13.16	
	J.C	6	1	2	9	7	6	2	10/2000	Li	623	13.11	
	J.D	6	1	3	2	4	4	2	10/2000	Ferragamo et al.	606	151	
	J.E	6	1	4	9	6	6	9	11/2000	Li	606	232	
	J.F	6	1	6	8	5	9	6	1/2001	Wellisz et al.	606	69	
	J.G	6	2	9	6	6	5	6	10/2001	Bolduc et al.	606	213	
	J.H	6	3	0	6	1	5	9	10/2001	Schwartz et al.	606	232	
	J.I	6	4	4	7	5	3	5	9/2002	Jacobs et al.	606	215	
	J.J	6	4	8	5	5	0	3	11/2002	Jacobs et al.	606	215	
	J.K												
FOREIGN PATENTS OR PUBLISHED FOREIGN PATENT APPLICATIONS													
		DOCUMENT NUMBER							PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY OR PATENT OFFICE	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION (YES/NO)
	J.L												
	J.M												
	J.N												
	J.O												
	J.P												
	J.Q												
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Place of Publication)													
	J.R												
	J.S												
	J.T												
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